

Collectanea.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POINTED ARCHITECTURE.*

The Tower, Spire, and Turret.

NOT to dilate upon the variety of picturesque external forms anciently assumed by that essential feature of domestic architecture, the chimney, we may, in our upward course of observation, select as the subjects of some general remarks, the *tower*, *spire*, and *turret*. In the former of these, when happily composed, the peculiar characteristics of the perpendicular pointed style are developed with wonderful effect. Tall lines of regularly-graduated buttresses are here displayed with great advantage, and can never indeed be omitted without insipidity and vacancy of composition. Long and deeply-sunk windows, with high labels, here produce conspicuous dignity of outline and force of shadow,—effects further promoted by the use of niches or high panels of tracery. Airy battlements, light pinnacles, distinct purfling, and boldly-varied grotesques and knots of foliage unite in finishing the mass with dazzling but consistent elegance. The towers of Gloucester and Wells Cathedrals; Magdalen College, Oxford; Taunton Church, Somersetshire; and Great Malvern Church, Worcestershire, will furnish a few out of numerous happy illustrations of these excellencies, in some or in all points; and will shew, at the same time, how greatly many other of our towers, that may be of an equally or more expensive character, might have been improved by an observance of similar principles, especially upon the points of abutment and termination.

The *lantern-tower* is an elegant variety, which, to be properly so called, should both contain more of window than usual, and also transmit light into the area of the building which it surmounts, as at York and Ely Cathedrals. The *octagonal lantern*, though destitute of the latter application, is frequently used with great advantage to terminate the square tower, as in the fine example of Boston Church, Lincolnshire, and many others.

The *spire*, ever characteristic and imposing, is a feature of which more is always to be seen than said. The same principles, however, which regulate a good pinnacle of the first order, are those which produce elegance in a spire. This member is one, it may be observed, most frequently found in the older productions of the pointed style, but which is yet by no means foreign to the practice, much less to the feeling of the perpendicular mode. We have also some specimens of a kind of curtailed spire, wherein the ordinary figure is cut off at about one-third of its height, and finished with a parapet and pinnacles: of this description is the interesting steeple of St. Nicholas' Church, Gloucester.

The *octagonal turret* is another terminating feature of frequent use in the later practice of pointed architecture. This is sometimes finished with a plain or with a perforated battlement, sometimes with the addition of a purfled pyramid or depressed spire, as may be exemplified from Magdalen College, Oxford; but most frequently with the ogre-cupola, as in Henry Seventh's Chapel, or the yet more aspiringly elegant turrets of King's College Chapel.

The characteristics of these masses should severally seem to be those of dignity in the tower, lightness in the spire, and richness in the turret-crowned cupola; characteristics which, as supported by the all-pervading genius of the style, will ever render such features admirable, whatever deteriorating comparisons may be made in respect to them by self-constituted critics.

PLAN FOR A SWISS COTTAGE, &c.

SIR,—Returning you thanks for the insertion of plan of a farmstead intended for a five-acre allotment, I feel obliged by the remark of your correspondent "W. H. J.," whence it may be gathered that his principal objections appear to be in the size given to the farm-yard, to the idea of having three stalls in the cow stable, and to the dung pit. As knowing some little respecting farms, derived from information received from the father of modern agriculture, the late Earl of Leicester, a man who had lived to see, and had the courage to acknowledge, that the system of large farms was

* Continued from page 468.



PERSPECTIVE ELEVATION OF A SWISS COTTAGE DESIGN.

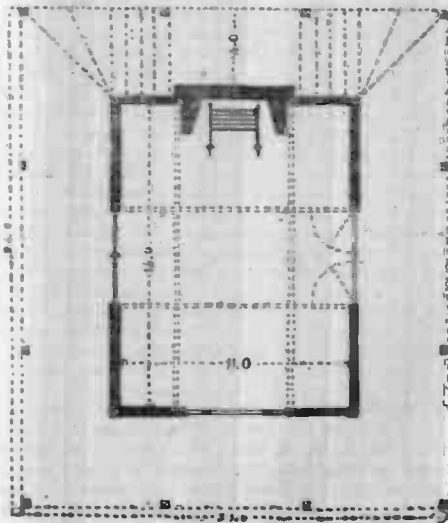
bad, I concurred to a certain extent, in having the cows stall-fed, being more profitable and, I believe, more congenial, especially in the heat of summer and in the cold of winter, to the animals themselves. I should desire to see the farm have a colt or two, to be reared for sale, also a sheep or two for the same purpose. I have seen many farmyards about the size as stated by your correspondent, but I wish to see "elbow or leg room" for the cows when they are daily turned out of their stalls. The dung pit in my arrangement is, with all deference to "W. H. J.," a somewhat pet thing with me; not that I am an admirer of dirt for the dirt itself, but the manure pit would be so arranged as to receive the surface water with all the drainage for the cottage, the pigs, the cows, &c., also would receive the waste from the garden, *manure being a most essential matter*. A place is provided for the pigs' food, two tanks in front of the sty, being conveniently placed both for receiving and for feeding. As a great admirer of your I may say

invaluable paper, accept my thanks for the many very interesting sketches you are so kind as to introduce.

In No. 34, a constant reader, who subscribes himself "Thomas George Hendon," is desirous of having a design for a Swiss cottage. The following Monday I sent the enclosed sketch to his address, but he was not found by the Post Office authorities. I am free to confess that for one I do not fall in with Mr. Charles Allard that a fee should be held out as a stimulus. Enclosed I beg to send you my idea of a Swiss cottage of two rooms, the ceiling of the lower room to be divided into sunk compartments by the binders, or girders and joists; the floor to the upper room would be of marquetry, so worked as to form the panels to the ceiling under. Estimated cost about 110*l*. The roof to cottage and chimney-shaft of iron galvanized.

I remain, Sir, your obedient reader,

P. T.



Plan of Swiss Cottage.